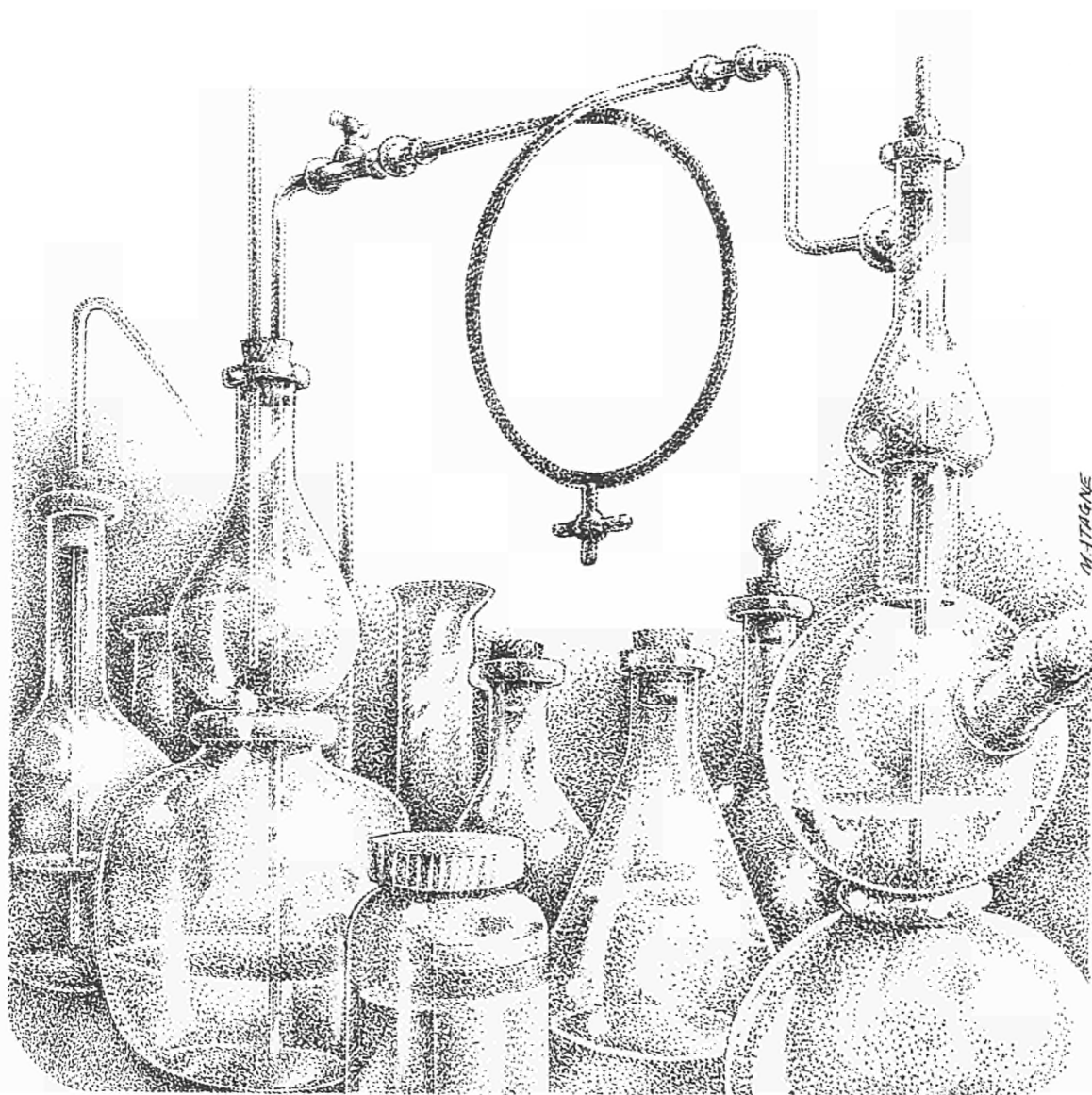


WOMEN OF EUROPE

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Our correspondents:

Denmark:	Danske Kvinders Nationalråd, N. Hemmingsensgade 8, 1153 København
Germany:	Christa Randzio-Plath, Hadermans Weg, 23, Hamburg 61
Greece:	Effi Kalliga-Kanonidou, 10 Neofytou Douka, 10674 Athens
Ireland:	Yvonne Murphy, 19 Palmerston Park, Dublin 6
Italy:	Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli, Piazza di Spagna, 51, 99187 Roma
Luxembourg:	Alix Wagner, 7 rue Henri Frommes, 1545 Luxembourg
Netherlands:	Anneke Groen, Reynier Vinkeleskade 64, 1071 SX Amsterdam
Portugal:	Eugénia Pires Ribeiro, Rua Oliveira Martins, 3, 3º Dto, 2735 Agualva-Cacém
Spain:	Carmen Sáez Buenaventura, Calle Rafael Salazar Alonso, 14 - 28007 Madrid
United Kingdom:	Morag Alexander, The Coach House, East Rossdhu Drive, Helensburgh, Glasgow G84 7ST, Scotland
European Parliament:	Lydia Gazzo, 17 Avenue de Tourville, 75007 Paris
Text:	Lydia Gazzo
Editor:	Fausta Deshormes la Valle Head of Women's Information Service 200 rue de la Loi 1049 Brussels

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THE CHANGING EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The next European Commission will include at least one woman Commissioner, as the Greek Government has decided to put forward Vasso Papandreou to replace Commissioner Gigoris Varfis. Ms Papandreou is a member of the PASOK's Central Committee and a former Industry Minister. She will be serving as Deputy Trade Minister during the second half of this year, when Greece fills the European Council of Ministers Presidency. She told journalists in a recent interview that she felt it was "a challenge and a privilege" to become the first woman member of the European Commission.

As expected, Jacques Delors was re-elected European Commission President at the Hannover Summit for another 2-year term. His attachment to the social dimension of the Internal Market should serve as a guarantee for women worried about how "1992" will affect them.

FAMILY: As a supplement to issues 27 and 28 of Eurobarometer, the European Commission commissioned an "exploratory study" of single-parent families in Europe that reveals that an average of 4.9% of the population in Europe live in single-parent families. The breakdown by Member State is 2.6% for Greece, 3.3% for Ireland, 3.7% in Portugal, 4% in Luxembourg, 4.5% in Denmark, 4.6% in Germany, 4.7% in Italy and France, 4.8% in Spain, 5.2% in the Netherlands, 6.1% in the United Kingdom, and 7.2% in Belgium. Asked whether they were content with their lot, 57% of the Europeans polled responded that they were "rather happy", compared with only 49% of parents in one-parent families.

EUROPEAN UNION: A new Eurobarometer survey reveals that 2/3 of Europeans are in favour of a European Government that would be accountable to the European Parliament and empowered to adopt European laws directly applicable in the Member States. In addition, nine out of ten Europeans would like a referendum to be held on this issue.

Useful address: Eurobarometer, Directorate-General for Information, Communication and Culture, Commission of the European Communities, 200 rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Three years after the Council of Ministers' adoption on 13 December 1984 of the Recommendation concerning the promotion of "positive action" (affirmative action) for women, one can conclude that the Member States have, on the whole, started to implement and encourage such types of affirmative action, albeit more significantly in some countries than in others. It is difficult, sometimes even impossible, to assess the results of the implementation of women's affirmative action policies. In some cases, no checks on their implementation were made. In almost all cases, there has not been enough time to evaluate the results.

Some of the conclusions contained in a report on the situation so far that the European Commission has just adopted are summarised below. According to this report, which will be sent on to the Council of Ministers, the Member States should set up an information exchange network on their women's affirmative action efforts. The Commission consequently proposes continuing its current information exchange efforts and submitting a report on progress made in implementing the Recommendation to the Council of Ministers within 4 years based on the information provided by the Member States.

A few examples of affirmative action:

- Belgium adopted a Royal Order in the summer of 1987 concerning affirmative action in the private sector and is working on a government decision concerning the civil service.
- France requires companies to publish monthly reports on the situation of women workers compared to that of their male colleagues.
- Activity reports are submitted regularly to the national parliaments of both France and Germany.
- The Dutch Government has focused on spreading information to encourage affirmative action in the private sector. It now intends to take direct measures.
- A modernization programme was organized in Spain to teach teachers how to introduce the notion of equal treatment in their courses.
- The German Federal Government's vocational training programme considers women a special target category, with special attention being paid to women in traditional "men's jobs".
- In Portugal, all vocational training classes are required to have at least three women participants.
- In Denmark, 29 regional job placement offices employ equal treatment counselors.
- The Irish Employment Equality Act, adopted in 1984, includes a good practice code that sets down the principles of affirmative action.
- According to the British Government, the UK Equal Opportunities Commission's good practice code is a useful instrument for mobilising public opinion.

Civil service: The European Institute of Government Administration in Maastricht held, at the European Commission's request, its second round table on the situation of women holding senior government offices. A steering committee set up in the wake of the first round table, which was held in 1987, and composed of representatives of the European Commission and national ministries and equal opportunity agencies examined the efforts made by the national ministries and agencies to boost equality policies in this sector. The institute will publish a report on its work shortly.

Equal opportunity: The Advisory Committee for Equal Opportunities between Women and Men met in Brussels in June under the chairmanship of Carlota Bustelo. The items on the agenda included examination of the following:

- The European Commission's draft communication on action for migrant women. According to the Steering Committee, the dismantling of internal borders in 1992 will increase population movements. Consequently, priority should be given to the problem of migrant/immigrant women, which should be given a place among the Community's equal opportunity actions.
- Measures to take against sexual harassment in the workplace: This problem arises frequently, but few Member States have put themselves on the record at this point as advocates of a strong measure, such as a directive (United Kingdom, Ireland, and Spain), although most of the Member States are favourable to adopting "guidelines" in this area.

- Draft recommendation on sharing family and occupational responsibilities: The debate on this subject has produced an agreement on a Council recommendation (Women of Europe reminds its readers that a directive on parental leave is on the Council of Ministers' table).

The Commission has also published a guide called Equal Opportunities - Positive action for women in employment.

Equality in employment: A conference on the equal treatment of women and men under Community and West German law was held in Hamburg in June by the European Commission's Service for Action In Favour of Employment and Equality for Women. Some one hundred individuals, mostly legal experts, attended the conference, which provided an opportunity to engage in very concrete discussions on the importance of Community law for developing the legal instruments needed to combat discrimination against women.

This same office also organized a conference on the institutional bases of equality between men and women in Hannover in conjunction with the German Government.

Education: Several recent publications take stock of the initiatives that have been taken in this area:

- Equal opportunities in education - the role of informal out-of-school initiatives. This study, carried out for the European Commission by CREW (Centre of Research on European Women), examines a series of initiatives taken in Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. It stresses the important role that volunteer groups can play through their work with children.
- Equal opportunities for girls and boys: A curriculum framework for teacher education with guidelines for action by the ATEE Working Group. This report puts forward a number of proposals concerning sexual equality in teachers' training programmes. The report suggests some strategies for the future based on a review of the situations in the Member States.
- A guide to equal opportunities in secondary education for girls of foreign origin, based on work carried out in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. A European colloquium on equal opportunity for such girls was held in Brussels in April under the auspices of the European Commission. This colloquium culminated in the adoption of a string of recommendations directed at both the Member States and the European Commission.

Child care and equality: The Commission has also just published a comprehensive report, coordinated by Peter Moss, called Child care and Equal Opportunities, giving a run-down on the national policies in this area and making recommendations for the future.

Useful address for all of the foregoing information:

Commission of the European Communities, Service for Action
in Favour of Employment and Equality for Women, 200 rue de
la Loi, 1049 Brussels.

Young people:

- The Council of Ministers has adopted a Youth programme for Europe (YES for Europe) that will step up youth exchanges in the 15- to 25-year age group over the next three years.

- Three of the seven finalists in the **young scriptwriters'** contest "Tomorrow's Europe in 26 Minutes" are girls: Anne Paris of France for "Le moindre geste peut faire signe" (the slightest move can be a sign), Trace Hall of the United Kingdom for "In-between project" and Giovanna Mazzoni for "L'oboe e l'orchestre" (the oboe and the orchestra).
- Forty-seven young managers are currently participating in the 8th Japanese **language and management** training programme. The participants include only two women, Caratti di Lanzacco (Italy) and W. Langedijk (Netherlands).
- Eurydice (information network on education in the European Community) has published a special survey titled "Dossier: The Second Community Pilot Project Programme - Transition of Young People from School to Adult and Working Life - Results and Prospects" in Eurydice News (Eurydice European Unity, rue Archimède 17 Box 17B, 1040 Brussels, Tel. 02/230.03.82).
- Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities, has published Europe in Figures, a brochure intended mainly for young people that contains general information as well as information in the changing student body (including the male/female ratio) in Europe over the last fifteen years.

European Council: At the European Council in Hannover (FRG) at the end of June the Heads of State and Government of the 12 Member States made some positive decisions concerning the Community's future in four major areas, namely, the completion of the unified Internal Market; the social dimension of building Europe; the Monetary Union (a study committee was set up); and the environment.

The European Commission and State Government of Lower Saxony also organized three days of "European Festivities" in Hannover to coincide with the Council. The aim of this event was to raise the public's interest in Europe. Information stands and exhibits, including a stand manned by the European Commission's Women's Information Service, presented and explained the various aspects of Community policy to the numerous visitors.

PEOPLE'S EUROPE

Right to vote: The European Commission has just adopted a Council draft directive on the right of EC nationals to vote in local elections in the Member States in which they reside. The draft, which was presented to the European Commission by Commissioner Ripa Di Meana, was born of the realisation that all of the conditions allowing such a move will be met from now on. This is an essential element of the post-1992 "borderless" Europe's human policy dimension.

Commissioner Ripa Di Meana stressed this during a press conference, at which time he said that the draft directive affected more than 4 million EC nationals who were still deprived of this right in their countries of residence.

Reference book: 1992: The Challenge (Flammarion) is the title of a book that the European Commission has just published in all of the Community languages based on a report by Paolo Cecchini on the cost of "non-Europe". The study describes the direct effects of dismantling the Community's internal borders and stresses the indispensable prerequisites for the Internal Market's success.

Toys: The toy safety directive has been adopted by the Council of Ministers. This directive sets European requirements for all toys and is a great step forward in increasing child safety.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

May plenary session:

The European Parliament approved the Community's 1988 Budget in its second reading after the Council of Ministers, in a conciliatory move, agreed to allow the overstepping of certain spending limitations. At the same time the Parliament fell in line once more with the recommendations of the rapporteur, Italian Communist Carla Barbarella, and included drafts of some principles particularly dear to its heart such as "budgetary truth" and the strict coverage of all spending.

The European Parliament also adopted two reports by women MEPs:

- a report by German Green Undine Bloch von Blottnitz on the **development of renewable energy sources**, which called for bolder proposals from the European Commission to promote this type of energy as well as consideration of an "energy risk tax" to cover risks of two types - excessive dependence on oil imports and nuclear accidents, and
- a report by Britain's Winifred Ewing (ERDA) in favour of creating a **European Young People's Opera Company**, given the success of the recent Young People's Orchestra. Placido Domingo has agreed to be the opera company's president and Helga Schmidt, former artistic director of Covent Garden, its artistic director.

The other major debates of the May plenary session include debates on

- **structural fund reform:** The European Parliament approved (report by Portuguese Socialist Gomes) the Commission's proposals, asking that the aim of easing the entry of young people into the working world be broadened to include women;
- **the new EEC/ACP Convention** to follow the expiration of the third Lomé Convention. The Euro-parliamentarians advocated a ten-year convention (the European Commission had suggested a convention of indeterminate duration completed by financial protocols with precise expiration dates) and the admission of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as recommended by the rapporteur, Italian Christian Democrat Giovanni Bersani. The EP resolution includes a request to include specific measures to promote sexual equality in the ACP countries. During the debate Socialist spokeswoman Katharina Focke raised the issue of the effects that completing the Internal Market may have on the ACP States;
- **the exportation of toxic wastes to the Third World:** The European Parliament adopted a resolution sponsored by Dutch Christian Democrat Johanna Maij-Weggen, Italian Communist Vera Squarcialupi, Portuguese Liberal Carlos Pimenta and Belgian ARC François Roelants du Vivier calling for stricter controls on such exports.
- **the economic impact of new technologies:** The European Parliament adopted French Socialist Jean Besse's report on this subject, which warns against the dangers of new technologies while recognizing the opportunities that

they offer. Socialist spokeswoman Marijke Van Hemeldonck (Belgium) underscored the risk that new technologies would create new worker "castes";

- worker protection against the risks of on-the-job exposure to hazardous chemical, physical and biological substances: The European Parliament approved (report by British Conservative Sherlock) the Commission's proposal, which includes special measures for pregnant women.

June plenary session:

The European Parliament took stands on a series of important reports concerning the Community's future financing, including a report on financing the Common Agricultural Policy by French Liberal (i.e., Conservative) Christiane Scrivener. It also approved the agreement reached by the Council and Commission on budgetary discipline, which the Community's institutions will have to observe for the next five years.

The Parliament also discussed the results of the six months under German presidency, based on a speech by Council President H.-D. Genscher. During the debate a number of MEPs called attention to the successes of the last six months. French EPP Nicole Fontaine insisted particularly strongly on the need for achieving People's Europe. So did the President of the Liberal (i.e., Conservative) Group, Simone Veil, who felt that Europe was on an upswing and had a stabilising role to play in security matters.

Finally, the Parliament adopted a raft of reports by women on such issues as protectionism in trade relations between the EC and USA, by British Conservative Shelagh Roberts; protecting the ozone layer (calling for limits on the use of fluorocarbon sprays) by French Liberal (i.e., Conservative) Simone Martin; combating the pollution of the Rhine, by Dutch Christian-Democrat Johanna Maij-Weggen; shipbuilding, also by Johanna Maij-Weggen; and the DELTA (learning technologies) programme by German Christian-Democrat Gabriele Peus.

July plenary session:

The European Parliament adopted three resolutions concerning women directly:

1. **Equality in education and training:** The Parliament heeded the recommendations of the rapporteur, Luxembourg Christian-Democrat Nicolas Estgen, in proposing that 1989 be declared "European Year of Equality between Men and Women in Education and Vocational Training" and that on this occasion a huge public event involving high-level conference-debates with teachers from all twelve EC Member States be organized with the help of the Council of Europe and OECD. The Parliament urged the Member States to implement as soon as possible the Council of Ministers' Equal Opportunity Programme of 24 July 1986 and European Commission's recommendations on vocational training for women and called on the Commission to include a specific line in the 1989 budget for the organization of information seminars in the Member States to raise the awareness of "all of the agents involved" to the need for equal opportunity in education and vocational training. the Parliament also hoped that the Commission would produce some innovative Community level pilot projects on education and training for girls as well as demonstration projects to exchange information on the experiments being conducted in the Member States.

2. **Maternity:** The Parliament heeded the recommendations of Spanish Conservative Carmen Llorca Vilaplana in calling for a series of Community initiatives for women before, during and after childbirth. Specifically, the Parliament called on the European Commission to adopt a directive to align - "as much as possible" - national laws on the available pre-, peri- and post-natal facilities and advantages with those of the Member State that is the most advanced in this area; to adopt a directive on a code of conduct on the social protection of maternity; and to draw up a "parturient's bill of rights" applicable in all of the Member States.

In general, the Parliament advocates a system guaranteeing the broadest freedom of choice to the individuals involved starting with the decision to have a child or not (that is why it regrets the disparities in access to information on contraception and legal abortions among the Member States).

3. **The situation of women in Spain and Portugal:** The European Parliament adopted the resolution put forward by Spanish Socialist Ludivina Garcia Arias that takes note of the legal guarantees offered by Spanish and Portuguese law for the defence of women's rights and confirms that these laws are free of direct discrimination (except for any positive discrimination stemming from concern to protect women from certain types of work). The Parliament expressed its satisfaction over Spain's recent approval of an Action Plan to Promote Equality. It also applauded the existence of parliamentary committees on women's status in Spain and Portugal (Joint Senate/Chamber of Deputies Committee in Spain, specialised Committee of the Portuguese Assembly). The European Parliament felt that its own Women's Rights Committee should have regular contact with these committees and regional government officials.

Be that as it may, there is room for improvement, especially as regards female employment. Therefore, the European Parliament called on both countries' governments to take initiatives to create jobs for women at the local level, help women wishing to return to work, and facilitate women's access to occupations in which they are underrepresented and that of women under 25 to the labour market and pay particular attention to women in agriculture. The Parliament suggested creating permanent offices within the two countries' employment agencies to serve as watchdogs for the enforcement of Community legislation. It also called on the European Commission to increase the amount of aid from the Social Fund for Spanish and Portuguese women; step up its efforts to spread information in these two countries on how the Social Fund works; and increase its actions taken under the Second Intermediate-Range Action Programme for Equal Opportunities to boost local job creation for women in Spain and Portugal, especially by supporting actions to help women found their own companies and cooperatives.

Other reports by women adopted by the Parliament at its July plenary session: report by French Communist Sylvie Le Roux calling for measures to provide better protection for milk against what the rapporteur considered unfair competition from imitations; report by French Christian-Democrat Nicole Fontaine approving the European Commission's proposals to change the directives on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other degrees in medicine, general nursing care, dentistry, veterinary medicine and midwifery (these directives are important stepping stones to the completion of the Internal Market); report by Luxembourg Christian Democrat

Marcelle Lentz-Cornette on plastic wastes suggesting ways to reduce and recycle them that also calls for a ban on cadmium and regulation of the dangerous additives incorporated in plastics (the report also notes that some 7 million metric tons of household waste are generated in the Community each year).

DEBATE ON THE HANNOVER EUROPEAN COUNCIL

During this debate both Commission President Delors and Chancellor Kohl insisted on the need to create not only the Internal Market, but a European social area as well. The priorities in the Greek presidency's programme, outlined by Council President Papoulias, following the positive results of the summit, include efforts to achieve equality between men and women. Our readers may remember that Greece had defined the following priorities regarding sexual equality in its memorandum on the creation of a social area:

- draft directive on reversing the burden of proof;
- return to work of women who interrupt their careers to take care of their families;
- the "unrecognized work" done by women (this issue may be addressed in efforts to implement the 1984 recommendation on affirmative action for women and included in the Third Community Programme on the Promotion of Equal Opportunities);

Greece will also strive to quicken the pace of work on

- the proposal for a directive on the full application of the principle of equal treatment in social security schemes and
- the proposal for a directive on parental leave and leaves for family reasons

during its six months in the Council Presidency's chair.

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

In its latest round of meetings the Committee on Women's Rights, chaired by Hedy d'Ancona, exchanged views with

- German Secretary of State Pfeiffer, standing in for then Council President R. Süßmuth, to take stock of Community actions to help women following the April 26 "Women's Affairs Council" held in Berlin. Pfeiffer acknowledged that there still was a great deal to be done, especially as regards information. Among the concrete measures that needed to be taken in the future the Secretary of State stressed the need to take into account the effects of the disappearance of the Community's internal borders in 1992. (The German Government has launched an investigation of this problem in Germany. Pfeiffer expressed pleasure over the fact that the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights had decided to hold a conference on this topic with labour and management in January 1989.) He also reported on the Council's debate on female unemployment and the draft directive intended to complete existing provisions on equal treatment in social security schemes.
- Commission Vice-President Christophersen, on the Commission's programme of affirmative action for its female staff intended to increase the number of women in decision-making posts at the Commission itself.

The Committee on Women's Rights examined and adopted the following five reports at its meeting in early July:

- Vayssade Report on the implementation of Council directives, resolutions and recommendations concerning women;

- Cinciari Rodano Report on a proposal for a directive to complete the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in statutory and occupational social security schemes; measures to be taken in the future;
- Van Dijk Report on women and health;
- Gianakou Report on women in decision-making centres; and
- Llorca Vilaplana Report on women and research.

COUNTRY TO COUNTRY...
FACTS, INSTITUTIONS, LAWS
AND MILITANT ACTIVITIES

B E L G I U M

Lily Boeykens, President of the *Nationale Vrouwen Raad* (National Dutch-Speaking Women's Council) has been elected president of the International Women's Council (IWC). She is the second Belgian to head the IWC. The first one was Baroness Marthe Boel who, as IWC President from 1936 to 1946, exerted a strong influence in all areas relevant to women worldwide.

The IWC, which celebrates its 100th birthday this year, is an alliance of National Women's Councils from more than 70 countries and representing millions of members. In Belgium, the three Women's Councils corresponding to the country's three linguistic communities, meet regularly under the chairmanship of Huberte Hanquet, who is also president of the French-speaking Council, the CNFB. Gisela Ridder heads the newly-created German-speaking Council, the NFBGD.

Useful addresses: - CNFB, rue de Florence 24, B-1050 Brussels
- NVR, Avenue Louise 183, B-1050 Brussels
- NFBGD, rue de Liège 184, B-4720 La Calamine

Congratulations are also in order for Huberte Hanquet, who has been appointed Chairwoman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. This is the first time in Belgium's history that a woman has been selected to chair a parliamentary committee that is not concerned with traditional "women's affairs" such as health and social affairs.

Education:

- * The Ministerial Committee for Women's Status has examined a note from the Secretary of State for Social Emancipation, Miet Smet, on boosting female employment. This document (which, if it is approved by the Parliament and labour and industry, could become a "joint initiative" of these three groups) notes that women account for 60% of Belgium's unemployed. It proposes such concrete measures as public sector affirmative action plans (a royal order on the public sector is awaiting promulgation); continuing with the policy to encourage women to take up studies with a future; taking into account the proportion of women among the unemployed in the distribution of programmes to reduce unemployment; initiatives to help women re-enter the working world after time off to look after their families;

and initiatives to help the long-term female unemployed (for example, programmes focusing on care for the elderly, etc.).

- The *Centre féminin d'éducation permanente* (Women's Continuing Education Centre) (Place Quêtelet 1a, B-1030 Brussels, Tel.: 02/219.65.18) has published a brochure on employment contracts with the support of the State Secretariat for the Brussels Region and the European Commission. The brochure is aimed at helping all interested parties to "get their bearings in the employment contract maze".

Affirmative action: The Secretariat of State for Social Emancipation (Cité administrative, B-1010 Brussels) has published a "guide to company affirmative action" (*Guide des actions positives dans l'entreprise*) that suggests ways for companies to carry out affirmative action for women.

Social security: Léona Detiége, Secretary of State for Pensions, has qualified a study by the *Office National des Allocations Familiales des Travailleurs salariés* (National Office of Salaried Workers' Family Benefits - ONAFTS) that asserts that women get more out of social security than they contribute as unscientific and farfetched. As a result she has proposed that a university working group produce a second, better documented, study. While Detiége admits that women, on average, cost the social security system more because they live longer, she points out that women receive only 86% of the average man's pension. She also feels that not separating wage earners from unsalaried women (who have never paid into the scheme) in the calculations unfairly skews the analysis.

Femmes prévoyantes socialistes: Belgium's "Foresighted Socialist Women" organized a colloquium called "Women, families - towards which rights, freedoms and solidarity?" that gave the participants a chance to raise various problems of health, education and the quality of life.

Service pour la promotion culturelle et professionnelle des femmes (Ministère de la Communauté française, 78 Galerie Ravenstein, B-1000 Brussels, Tel.: 513 94 40): The head of the Office for the Cultural and Vocational Advancement of Women, Mrs. Destercke, has vaunted the office's achievements, calling particular attention to its desire to set up an information network on women's activities in the country's different regions as well as a data bank on feminist research.

Research: The latest issue of *Les Cahiers du GRIF* (29, rue Blanche, 1050 Brussels, Tel.: 538 84 87) is on "*Le Genre de l'Histoire*" (The gender of history) and leads off, as an introduction, with a 1981 interview with Michel Foucault. The articles examine the sources of power, the biographical approach to women's history and "unusual women - exceptions to which rule?"

Immigration:

- * The latest issue of *Actuelles* (29, rue Blanche, B-1050 Brussels) contains an article on the problems of immigrant women.
- * The Italian Workers' Christian Associations (ACLI) of Belgium-Luxembourg have created a "Women's Coordination Office" (rue de Pavie 22, B-1040 Brussels) to promote equal opportunity and the redistribution of roles and make sure that Italian women are represented in women's associations and movements in Belgium.

Festival: ARC (4, Chaussée de Waterloo, B-1640 Rhode-St-Genèse, Tel.: 358 45 51) will be holding its second "Festival of Human Values and the Quality of Life" on the theme "Choosing our World" at the Heysel fairgrounds on September 23-25. The areas to be covered will include health, food, the environment, appropriate technological choices, social innovation, peace and disarmament, the Third World and personal development.

Short takes:

- The CRISP (Centre for Socio-Political Research, rue du Congrès 35, B-1000 Brussels) has found, in a recent study, that women management personnel rarely remain at their jobs in government administrations, especially in such traditionally male strongholds as national defence.
- The female staff of Sint-Andries-Brugge women's prison held a 24-hour strike without disrupting the prison's indispensable services in order to protest the shortage of personnel and overload of work. It was the first strike of its kind.
- The publication *De Stem der Vrouw* (The Woman's Voice, rue Saint-Jean 32, B-1000 Brussels) has launched an appeal to its subscribers to help it out of its current financial difficulties.
- On the occasion of its 100th birthday, the *Nationale Vrouwen Raad* (Avenue Louise 52, B-1050 Brussels) is displaying the works of nine Belgian women painters of the late 19th and first half of the 20th century: Anna Boch, Jenny Montigny, Cécile Douard, Marthe Donas, Edith Van Leckwijck, Marthe Guillain, Suzanne Van Damme, Marie Howet and Alice Frey.

D E N M A R K

Elections: Women made slight gains in the May 10 general elections: 55 women were elected out of a total of 179 deputies, compared with 52 in 1987 and 47 in 1984. Four of the 21 ministers in Conservative Poul Schlüter's new government are women: Agnete Lausten (Conservative) - Housing; Aase Olsen (Radical) - Social Affairs; Lone Dybkjaer (Radical) - Environment; and Elsebeth Koch-Petersen (Liberal) - Health.

Equality: The Folketing (Danish Parliament) has adopted a new law (replacing an April 1978 law) that increases the powers of the Council for Equality between Men and Women. The Council will from now on be able to decide if a request sent to it should be followed up by an inquest and demand any information from unions and employers that is important for its work. Our readers may remember that the Government's Action Plan for Equal Rights earmarked 3 million kroner for concrete measures. The Council has carried on with projects begun last year, such as the publication of a manual on male/female equality; hearings on equal pay; and investigations on equality in the school and working life, women and management, women in men's jobs and men's changing roles. The Council also noted the rising proportion of women (45.%) in the labour force and a drop in the proportion of women holding part-time jobs (43.7% in 1978, 34.6% today).

Danish National Women's Council: The *Danske Kvinders Nationalråd* (Niels Hemmingsensgade 10, DK-1153 Copenhagen, Tel.: 12 80 87) held a seminar on "Future Strategies for Equality at the National and European Level" at the instigation of its Chairwoman, Ytte Lindgard, and with the help of the European Commission. Chris Docksey (European Commission's Service for Action in

Favour of Employment and Equality for Women) spoke about the Community's equal opportunity policy, while Hilde Albertini (Women's Information Service) focused on the WIS's activities, especially the creation of a European women's lobby. Sociologist Birgitte Simonsen examined the prospects for equality in tomorrow's societies, the role of women's organizations and women's changing role.

Trade unions: The union membership rate among Danish women (currently 81% across the board) has topped that of men, according to statements made by the DKN at a press conference attended by representatives of the LO trade union.

Nordic Forum: Danish women and immigrant women in Denmark are responsible for 130 Nordic Forum activities. DKN Chairwoman Lindgard, who represents Denmark's women in the Nordic Planning Group, underscored these women's determination to make the Nordic Forum a genuine forum for dialogue for the rank and file rather than another occasion to make eloquent speeches and adopt solemn declarations.

Vocational training: The Women Workers' Association (KAD), whose members are unskilled women workers, has carried out a number of experimental projects involving some 600 single women, generally between the ages of 30 and 40, in Fyn and Vejle Departments. These experiments, which were built around self-organization and local anchoring, proved to be useful tools for fighting unemployment.

For all information concerning Denmark:

Useful address: Danske Kvinders Nationalrad, Niels Hemmingsensgade 10, 1153 København K

F R A N C E

The Second Rocard Government includes six women: Edith Cresson remains Minister of European Affairs; Edwige Avice is Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Catherina Tasca Deputy Minister of Culture and Communication responsible for communication. The three women Secretaries of State (junior ministers) are Michèle André (Women's Rights), Véronique Neiertz (Consumer's Affairs under the Minister of the Economy, Finances and the Budget), and Hélène Dorlhac (Family Affairs under the Minister of Solidarity, Health and Social Protection).

Elections: As a result of the June 12 elections there are now only 33 women in the National Assembly, or two less than after the elections of 16 March 1986. Moreover, according to a poll conducted after the first round of the president election, on 24 April 1988, 37% of the women polled voted for Mitterrand compared with 31% of the male respondents (women make up 53% of France's registered voters). This was the inverse of the situation in the 1965 presidential election, which Mitterrand lost (51% of the male electorate but only 39% of the female electorate had voted for him). In addition - still according to the poll -, 18% of the women voters voted for Barre, 21% for Chirac, and only 10 for Le Pen (versus 17% of the men voters).

Untraditional occupations: Martine Griffon-Fouco, 36, until now head of the French power company EDF's "human factors" unit, is the first woman in the world to run an atomic power plant. She is now the director of the Blayais power plant in Gironde Department (two 900-megawatt reactors, 400 employees). An engineer with a degree in psychology, she joined the Atomic Energy Board (*Commissariat*) at the age of 26.

Last names: The *Librairie générale de droit et de jurisprudence* (26, rue Vercingétorix, F-75014 Paris) has published, under the title *La nouvelle loi sur le nom* (The new law on last names) the proceedings of a day of study of the law of 23 December 1985, which was attended by a majority of women (lawyers, researchers and professors).

Algiers Mothers: The convention on the children of Franco-Algerian parents signed by France and Algeria on 21 June (thanks in part to the efforts of Georgina Dufoix, then Minister for Family Affairs) is scheduled to be submitted to the National Assembly this summer.

Careers: The visit in Paris of members of the Bari FIDAPA Club was used as an occasion to announce the "twinning" of the Italian club and the UPF-Paris Club. The visit was one of the encounters organized by the European Federations of Business and Professional Women (Dr. Livia Ricci, European Coordinator for the IFBPW, via 4 Novembre 28, I-37126 Verona).

Human values: Colette Boxer has founded the International Federation for the Defence of Basic Human Values (*Fédération internationale pour la défense des valeurs humaines fondamentales* - FIVA -, 36 rue Boileau, F-75016 Paris) for the purpose of transmitting to today's youth - the adults of the year 2000 - the basic values of Judeo-Christian civilization. The numerous brochures lined up for publication include one with a European slant, called "*Jeune Citoyen d'Europe* (Young Citizen of Europe), for teenagers.

Books, articles: The publishing house *Editions Siloë* (22 rue du Jeu-de-Paume, F-53003 Laval Cédex) has come out with *Irène de Lipowski, une Française du XXème siècle* (Irene de Lipowski, a 20th-Century Frenchwoman), by Andrée Dore-Audibert and Annie Morzelle, describing the course of this member of the De Gaulle resistance, born in Russia at the end of the last century, Deputy-Mayor of Orly in 1947, who left the RPF in 1953, stood in the 1958 elections (but failed to be elected), who then turned to social work and the service of the citizens (fighting alcoholism, among other things) in the global unity movement (travelling and meeting people the world over) and the feminist movement (the French League for Women's Rights, International Women's Alliance and CIAF are some of the movement in which she was active on behalf of "women for different politics"). *Women of Europe* has the privilege of enjoying the friendship and support of this great lady.

Twins: Marie-Hélène Malgoyres (rue du pré St-Gervais, F-93500 Pantin), an identical twin, has written to complain about the scarcity of books on twins in France and that almost none of the existing books are written by twins.

G E R M A N Y

Women in politics: Good news galore! First of all, the new government of Schleswig-Holstein, under Social Democrat Björn Engholm, boasts four women holding important cabinet posts: Heide Simonis is Minister of Finances, Marianne Tildick Minister for Federal Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister,

Gisela Böhrk Minister for Women's Status, and Eva Rümkorf Minister for Education, Science, Youth and culture. Secondly, two Social Democratic Party (SPD) regional branches have chosen women leaders: Traute Müller was elected chairwoman of the Hamburg SPD by a large majority while Heidi Wieczorek-Zeul (former MEP) was elected, also by a strong majority, chairwoman of the Southern Hesse branch of the SPD. Finally, Marliese Dobberthien is Hamburg's new Secretary of State for Women's Status.

Fathers: Only 1.5% of German fathers are taking advantage of the paid leave granted after the birth of a child. . As in most cases the man earns the higher salary in a couple and the government allowance of DM600 is too low to meet the expenditures of an average household, the father is seldom the one who takes the leave.

Men and Women of Europe survey (published in Supplement No. 26 to Women of Europe): In her comments on this special issue of Eurobarometer, Rita Süßmuth, German Minister for the Family, Youth and Women, noted that the results of this survey revealed the lack of widespread awareness of the EC's policy to promote equality between men and women. She thus stressed the need to make this policy "more transparent, more comprehensible", as a way of drawing closer to the achievement of "Women's Europe".

Women and television: Frau & Politik (Konrad-Adenauer-Haus, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 73-75, D-5300 Bonn 1) has published a long article by Marianne Brink, journalist with the television station ZDF and Chairwoman of the Frauenunion's Media Working Party, on what women have to say on television and the image of women that is put across by television. Marianne Brink takes stock of the current situation, comparing it with the results of a survey on this subject that was carried out by Dr. Erich Küchenhoff in 1975, International Women's Year.

Health: Issue No. 32 of Treffpunkt, a publication of the Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family, Women and Health, is devoted entirely to the problem of AIDS as it affects women. We remind our readers that the Ministry has a special phone number for all people wishing to obtain information and advice concerning this problem: 0221/89 20 31.

Visits: A delegation from the Soviet Women's Committee, headed by Alevtina Fedulova, the Committee's first Vice-Chairwoman, had talks with the Deutscher Frauenrat (German Women's Council, Südstrasse 125, D-5300 Bonn 2) in Bonn this summer. Deutscher Frauenrat representatives made a similar visit to Moscow in June 1987.

Research on women: The state government of Baden-Württemberg has announced that Barbara Schäfer, Minister for Social Affairs, will create a "foundation for research on women" in the coming months. The Ministry (Ministerium für Arbeit, Gesundheit und Familie, Baden-Württemberg PM 40/88) stressed that this was a "new" field suffering from many gaps in its knowledge and that should be encouraged.

Managers: according to a study by the Prognos Institute, the German economy needs 500,000 more managers, and not just men. At the present time, women hold only 3.6% of the key positions in the German economy and 5% of the positions of intermediate responsibility. However, large companies are showing growing interest in women manager, especially in industry, and the salary differences that still exist are tending to disappear.

Woman ambassador: Anna-Margarete Peters has been appointed Ambassador to Somalia, raising the number of women in German diplomacy's top ranks to 4 (out of 136 ambassadors).

Church: Helga Tröskén has become the first prioress in German Protestantism. She has been named prioress in a Protestant church in Frankfurt.

G R E E C E

Farewell to Catherine Doukas

We have lost a dear friend. Words fail us to express our sadness over the loss of this intrepid, smiling pioneer of European unity. During the farewell ceremony held in Brussels, at which her European friends gathered to pay her their last respects, EC Commissioner Andriessen picked out the following highlights of her career:

"In the '50s, Catherine organized the "European Youth Campaign" in Greece. This campaign had been created at the instigation of P.H. Spaak to foster the people's support for the efforts being made to unite Europe. Her action led her first to be active in the Greek section of the European Movement, then to create in Athens in 1963, on the initiative and with the help of the European Commission, a "Centre of Documentation on the European Communities" that became instrumental in spreading Community ideas in Greek academic, economic and political circles.

Everyone will remember her work during the dictatorship of the colonels, when, despite the difficulties and risks, Catherine managed to keep the Centre, which became a point of attachment to the European Community, alive.

Head of the Commission's Press and Information Bureau in Greece in 1980-81, she was then attached to the Cultural Section of the General Secretariat until 1982. After leaving the Commission, Catherine continued working for Europe, the Community and Greece, with, of course, the same conviction, youthfulness and courage, in an area that we know today is essential in bridging the gaps between the citizens of Europe, namely, culture."

Andriessen concluded by expressing "our determination to keep alive in our hearts and minds the example of this great lady, this militant and friend to all of us, Catherine Doukas".

Farewell, Catherine, and thank you.

Equality: The General Secretariat for Equality (Mousseou 2, Plaka, H-10555 Athens) launched a six-month programme at the beginning of June called "Open Line for Communication and Equality" consisting of a series of events (each lasting a fortnight) in the country's different prefectures aimed at promoting the work and creativity of women in all kinds of activities. The programme was kicked off in Zacynthos and Halkidiki. Its results will be evaluated in Athens in 1989. Art and historical exhibitions, including one on women's contributions to the resistance during World War II, are also planned.

Second Community Action Programme for Equal Opportunities: This was the theme of a symposium held in Athens by the Greek League for Women's Rights (Syndesmos gia ta Dikeomata tis Gynekas, Solonos 41, H-10672 Athens) with the European Commission. The proceedings were written up under the supervision of League President Professor Aliki Marangopoulos.

Disarmament: A meeting on "Europe, the Mediterranean, Denuclearized Zones, in the Wake of the INF Accord" was held by the Greek Women's Antinuclear Movement (Elliniko Gynekio Anti-pyriniko Kinima, Emm. Benaki, Nikitara 6, H-10678 Athens) with the participation of similar movements in other countries.

Women and politics: Looking ahead to the 1989 Greek and European elections, the women of the United Democratic Left, or EDA (Chalkokondili 9, H-10677 Athens and Apitropi Gynekon tis EDA, Akadimias 62, H-10679 Athens) have launched a systematic awareness drive to increase the number of women on the Central Committee of the "Innovative Left/Domestic Communist Party", on which women hold 18 of the 60 seats.

Foreign women workers: The Greek League for Peoples' Rights and Liberation (*Elliniki Enossi gia ta Dikeomata ke tin Apeleftherossi ton Laon*, 10 Hippokratous St., H-10680 Athens) has held a symposium on Filipino women workers in Greece, who are poorly protected and organized.

Prize: The World Health Organization's Léon Bernard Prize for 1988 has been awarded to a Greek woman physician, Meropi Violaki-Paraskeva. She is the first Greek and second woman to receive this honour.

Mediterranean Women's Institute: This institute (KEGME, 192/B Leoforos Alexandras, H-11521 Athens) has published proposals for the creation of a "subregional information and documentation unit" to enable women to benefit from scientific and technological developments and their impact on communications.

I R E L A N D

Equality: The Board of the Employment Equality Agency (36 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2, Tel.: 605 966), appointed in November 1987, announced at the end of June its priority work programme for its five-year term of office. Its focuses include equal opportunity in education and training; part-time contract work and low pay; and the electronics industry (EEA research has shown that traditional employment patterns, with women predominating in lower skill-level jobs and not participating in proportionate numbers throughout the hierarchy, are appearing in this new sector).

Council for the Status of Women report: The CSW's (64 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, Tel.: 615 268) annual report stresses that 1988 was a difficult year for Irish women and women's organizations because of harsh Government spending cuts. Council Director Ann Good stated that the national commitment to women's issues seemed to have fallen to an all-time low as the Department of Women's Affairs and Special Women in Business Programme were abolished and funding for women's organizations slashed from 189,000 Irish Pounds in 1986 to 140,000 in 1987 and 90,000 in the 1988 Book of Estimates (1988 budget estimates).

Emigration: According to a recent study by the Council for the Status of Women, 41% of female leaving certificate students in Dublin's working-class suburbs expected to emigrate as the main way to find work. Most of these young women were nevertheless optimistic about their futures. One of the study's main findings was that they reckoned that education was the best way to avoid the dole queue.

Sexual violence: The Law Reform Commission (Ardilaun Centre, 111 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Tel.: 715 699) held a seminar this summer dealing with major priorities in law reform that discussed, among other themes, sexual abuse of children and the law. The LRC has also recommended that the Government adopt a much broader definition of rape to include other means and types of penetration than those of "conventional" sexual intercourse. In addition, it recommends that the absence of physical resistance should not be interpreted as consent. This follows an earlier report calling for rape within marriage to be considered a crime as well.

Reversing the burden of proof: The Joint Committee on Women's Rights (Leinster House, Dublin 2) feels that the proposal (backed by the Employment Equality Agency and trade unions) calling for the reversal of the burden of proof in employment discrimination cases does not require any radical changes in present procedures. According to a study that it undertook, under existing Irish Law, if a plaintiff establishes a *prima facie* case, the burden is on the defendant (the employer, for example), to bring evidence to rebut the allegation of discrimination.

This same Committee has also published the first in a series of four reports on **changing attitudes towards the role of women** in Ireland. Compiled by Dr. Margaret Fine Davis of Trinity College, this report updates a survey carried out by the same author in 1975, studying the changes in attitudes that have occurred between 1975 and 1986. Dr. Fine Davis found that legislation has had a considerable effect on public attitudes, especially as regards equal pay and employment; the issue of maternal employment remained controversial, although there was a large shift towards greater acceptance of working mothers (in addition, 47.5% of the 1986 respondents felt that women who did not want children were selfish); 95% of the respondents agreed that men should share in work around the house; and 90% of the respondents felt that discrimination in such private spheres as athletic clubs, etc., should be abolished, with 51% expressing support for ordaining women priests.

I T A L Y

Affirmative action: Labour Minister Formica is drafting a bill on the affirmative action that companies should take to ensure women equal access to the labour market. Initiatives along these lines have already been taken by IBM, Enichem, Italgas, Italtel (which currently has 7,000 women blue-collar workers versus 4,100 male blue-collar workers, 1,800 female white-collar workers versus 5,500 male white-collar workers and 8 women directors versus 542 men), and ENEL (*Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica* - the national power company). ENEL has set up a committee to study women's status (*Commissione di Studi sulla Condizione Femminile*, via San Giovanni sul Muro 9, I-20121 Milano), under the coordination of Ada Grecchi. This committee has already embarked on a string of investigations into role conflicts between mothers and working women; the psychological discomfort of women in a "male world", and the need to succeed versus the fear of success.

Information and communication: The Centre for Study of the History of the Women's Liberation Movement in Italy (*Centro di Studi Storici sul Movimento di Liberazione della Donna in Italia*, via Romagnosi 3, Milano) has held, with the support of the European Commission's Women's Information Service, a colloquium on "Initiatives in favour of information and documentation for European women" attended by documentation centres from the Member States. Women of Europe adds that most of Italy's large host of documentation centres belong to a national coordinating body (which was well represented at the Milan meeting). The aim of the colloquium was to compare European experiences in organizing and disseminating information for and about women in order to create a rapid, effective communication network. The debates, which were exceedingly rich in analyses and proposals, revealed three types of problems that such a project must overcome, namely, the sexualization of language, defining the network's users, and choosing the instruments, especially the most suitable languages and systems for managing the information to be dissemination. The colloquium proposed creating a European working party attached to the Milanese Centre to coordinate the joint strategies.

Public sector: According to recent ISTAT data, the number of women holding government jobs has increased considerably over the last 25 years, 200% overall, 164% for managers. The greatest gains, however, have been made in the middle levels, where the percentage of women has risen from 14 to 41% of the total.

Magistracy: More and more women are wearing judges robes. More than half of the successful candidates in Italy's last round of selection examinations were women. Indeed, a recent ruling allowing a widowed employee to take early retirement in order to take care of his five-year-old child was made by a woman judge.

On the other hand, the Constitutional Court (made up entirely of men) confirmed a recent ruling against early retirement for male government employees to take care of their children. The Constitutional Court also ruled against giving two surnames to legitimate children (in other words, giving them the possibility of bearing the surnames of both the mother and the father concurrently).

Communist parliamentarians: The Communist women in Parliament (*Gruppo interparlamentare Donne elette nel PCI*, via delle Botteghe Oscure 4, I-00186 Roma) have brought motions in the Chamber and Senate calling for the Government to make concrete commitments regarding female employment. In particular they demand the complete enforcement of equality laws, a three-year plan for female employment and shorter working hours.

Christian-Democratic women: The Christian Democrats' women's movement (*Movimento femminile DC*, Corso Rinascimento 113, I-00186 Roma) is also calling for other ways of organizing work (hours and flexibility) in order to deal with the problem of female unemployment (18.7% compared with 12.3% for men, going as high as 31.6% in the Mezzogiorno). It is demands the creation of a national fund for companies that introduce affirmative action and a revision of training and employment contracts.

The Italian Women's Centre (*Centro Italiano Femminile*, via Carlo Zucchi 25, Roma) is also working to attract the public's attention to female employment problems.

Women managers: *Donne in Carriera*/European Women's Management Development Network and the European Commission's Information Bureau in Milan (Corso Magenta 59, I-20123 Milano, Tel.: 80 15 05) sponsored a colloquium in May called "Agenda for the '90s". The participants included Odile Quintin, head of the European Commission's Service for Action in Favour of Employment and Equality for Women.

The home: The Treviso Women's Advisory Group (*Consulta Femminile di Treviso*, I-31100 Treviso), made up of several women's associations, has published a brochure called "*Casa Sicura*" (The Safe Home) as its contribution to the European Commission's initiatives to prevent the numerous household accidents occurring in homes across the Community.

Violence against women: A colloquium called "SOS Day and Night", held in Rome by the Italian Communist MPs, provided an opportunity for discussing violence against women at the same time as the Bolognese Women's Documentation Centre (*Centro di Documentazione delle Donne di Bologna*) presented a White Paper on this problem. Communist MPs Livia Turco, Giglia Tedesco and Ersilia Salvato have also presented a 45-second public service message on sexual violence on several private television stations with national coverage.

Abortion: Ten years after the legalization of abortions (18 May 1978), a debate has begun in the Chamber of Deputies and the country to take stock of its effects and make any necessary changes.

The women members of Italy's "secular" parties have formed an association to defend this law, which has bitter critics. This association contends that it has actually reduced the number of illegal abortions. According to the Health Ministry's estimates, the rate of decrease in the number of illegal abortions registered since 1983 has quickened in the last three years, testifying to a real trend and not just statistical fluctuations. Between 1981 and 1986 the number of abortions performed in Italy has fallen from 224,067 to 197,676.

In a letter to their Party Secretary, Altissimo, several Liberal (i.e., conservative) leaders have called for the creation of a committee composed of doctors, legal experts and educators to examine the problem of using abortion "as a means of contraception", while the Conference of Bishops has decided to hold a "National Conference for the culture of life" designed to counter all of the phenomena, such as birth control and widescale recourse to abortions, that increasingly raise upsetting questions.

European culture: In her most recent book, *Di là dalle porte di bronzo - Viaggio intellettuale di una donna in Europa* (Arnoldo Mondadori Editore), Maria Antonietta Macciocchi paints a rather harsh picture of the European "cultural entity". To try to discover European reality, this woman with a suitcase goes from place to place - palace, government institutions, churches, cathedrals - but, when she thinks she has found the answer, she discovers that she must start all over again! (This book, translated into French under the title *La femme à la valise*, has also been a wild success in France.)

Literature: The magazine *Minerva* (viale Giulio Cesare 151, I-00192 Roma) has published a special collection of articles on changes in women's presence in Italian literature. The woman who oversaw its realization, Anna Maria Mammoliti, stresses the "zig-zag course" taken by these women from the Middle Ages to the present.

Sports and housewives: A study by the Italian National Olympic Committee (*Comitato Olimpico Nazionale Italiano*, Foro Italico, I-00194 Roma, Tel.: 36851) compares, with the help of the K2, a device to measure the energy expenditures of various activities, a woman's work in the home to the energy expenditures of athletes. Thus, making the beds is equivalent to two km of cross-country skiing; washing the floors to swimming 1,500 metres; taking care of the children to playing part of a period of a rugby game; and cooking to dancing the tango for two hours. All this for a total of eight hours, or the same as two periods of a football (soccer) game, 80 km for a long-distance runner, and 2 hours of tennis.

Regions:

Percorsi Femminili, published by Franco Angeli (viale Monza 106, I-20127 Milano) examines conditions for women in Latium (Lazio).

The port of Livorno, in Tuscany, boasts three female harbour workers compared with 1,500 men. Hired six years ago, they are the only women to do such work in all of Italy. *Noi Donne* (via dei Pellegrini 12, I-00186 Roma) published a report on them in its May issue.

In Emilia-Romagna, the Forli Women's Centre (*Centro Donna de Forli*, via Fortis 18, I-47100 Forli) has just opened. Supported by the local and provincial administrations, the Centre's aim is to facilitate communication between women and promote initiatives for equality.

In Puglia (Apulia), the studies and programming office of the *Settore Formazione Professionale dell'Assessorato Regionale al Lavoro* (Vocational Training Sector of the Regional Labour Review Board) has published a report of the work carried out in 1987 to implement the Community recommendation on affirmative action for female employment. A second women's project (*Progetto Donna 2*) has been launched this year for women with higher education.

Italian-American Women: The situations of Italian-American women and Italian women were compared at a colloquium sponsored by the Italian-American Women's Association (*Donne italo-americane*) and "Together for Peace" (*Insieme per la Pace*, via Monte Giordano 36, I-00186 Roma).

L U X E M B O U R G

Education: The Female Labour Committee (Astrid Lulling, *Chambre des Députés*) adopted an opinion at its last plenary session expressing scepticism over the child-rearing allowance as it is foreseen in the bill currently being discussed. In the absence of a legal framework for parental leave, the spouse interested in claiming this allowance (the woman as a rule) would not really have a free choice, as he/she would lose his/her job without any guarantees of returning to it after taking two years of raise a child.

Part-time work: Amendments have been made to the bill on part-time work, first put forward in 1983, concerning the definition of a part-time salaried employee (so as to include the greatest number of employees with regular jobs, rather than temporary or extra help), the consultation of worker's representative bodies and the problem of overtime.

Continuing education: The Centre for Continuing Vocational Training (*Centre de Formation professionnelle continue*, c/o Mathieu Walferdange, Tel.: 33 11 66) will be starting a pilot project in October to familiarise former office employees with new secretarial techniques. Twenty women will be trained in the first three-month phase. If the project gives good results, other similar courses will be organized, preferably in areas that are not traditional bastions of female employment.

Press: *Carrière* (Career) will be the title of the first Luxembourg women's magazine, a bilingual quarterly produced entirely by women journalists to address the special needs of Luxembourg women (according to the magazine's editorial staff, the 329 foreign women's magazines sold on the Luxembourg market fail to do this).

Useful address: c/o Monique Mathieu, B.P. 2535, L-1021 Luxembourg

T H E N E T H E R L A N D S

Women and politics: The women's defence association *Vereniging Vrouwenbelangen* (Noordeinde 2a, NL-2311 CD Leiden, Tel.: 12 06 03) is aiming to achieve equal representation of men and women in politics by the year 2000 and has published two brochures containing detailed information on this subject. In the framework of the 70th anniversary of the granting of voting rights to women and in preparation for the European elections, the association is planning to organize a series of events in 1989 to encourage the political parties to help emancipate women.

Management: The Women and Management Foundation (*Stichting Vrouwen en Management*, Neuhuyskade 40, Post Bus 90730, NL-2509 LS Den Haag), created with the backing of the Dutch Association for Management (*Nederlandse Vereniging voor Management*), began operating on July 1st. Its aim is to promote applications for managerial positions from women, as neither employment offices nor "headhunters" do this enough. This is all the more necessary as women make up a smaller amount of the work force in the Netherlands (a scant 36%) than anywhere else. Only some 1% of married women in the Netherlands hold full-time jobs.

Civil service: The Ministry of the Interior (Binnenlandse Zaken 1124, Post Bus 20011, NL-2500 EA Den Haag, Tel.: 71 68 27) has created a *servicepunt* or centre to which all government administrations and bodies wishing to employ women can turn. This service was created in order to help implement an affirmative action programme for women in the civil service, which is to be in effect in all ministries by 1990.

Company heads: A brochure titled "*Vrouwen ondernemen in Rotterdam*" (*Bedrieffsadviesgroep Vrouw en Werk*, Mauritsweg 31, NL-3012 JT Rotterdam, Tel.: 411 21 26) takes stock of the companies run by women in this city, the problems specific to women executives and the measures needed to make their work easier.

Working at home: The creation of the *Steinpunt Thuiswerk Hengelo* (Hengelo Centre of Support for Home Workers) has been followed by that of another centre of this type by the *Vrouwenbond FNV* in Amsterdam (Tel.: 79 58 71). The aim is to prevent the very frequent abuses in this type of employment, e.g., low salaries, the use of dangerous materials, uncertainty as to whether expenses will be paid, etc. In addition, an expert/consultant has been hired to deal with the problems of Moroccan women home workers, who are very numerous in Amsterdam.

P O R T U G A L

Women and politics: The Social-Democratic Women (*Mulheres sociais democratas*, rua Buenos Aires, 32, P-1296 Lisboa codex) held a seminar on political action from the perspective of Social-Democratic women in order to ponder the question of women's intervention in Portuguese society. The participants brought up the lack of women in decision-making positions, whether in politics, government administrations, or business.

Honour: Engineer Ana Teixeira has been honoured by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for her efficiency and commitment to her work, which has been very positive for the environment. Inclusion in the Global 500 Roll of Honour is a sign of distinction conferred on all those whose efforts help improve the environment and quality of life on our planet.
Useful address: AIP, Praça das Indústrias, Junqueira, P-1300 Lisboa

Stock exchange: The first woman broker has been instated at Lisbon's Securities Exchange. Judite Correia, 36, a former teacher with a liberal arts degree, passed the official exam for this new position.

O Ninho: The prostitutes' aid organization "The Nest" (Rua Actor Taborda 30, 3° Dto, Lisboa) has launched a campaign to raise public awareness and prevent prostitution in Portugal.

Books: *Um filho nas vossas mãos* (A child in your hands) is the title of a book by Manuel Abecassis (5th edition, *Comissão da Condição Feminina*, Lisboa) that is a great success among the general public and institutions dealing with children (maternity clinics, public services, etc.).

Index: The Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (*Instituto do emprego e Formação Profissional*) has just published a very interesting index of occupational titles for men and women in Portuguese. It includes all of the female equivalents of the names of occupations reserved until now for men.

Useful address: IEFP, rua de Xabregas 52, P-1900 Lisboa

S P A I N

Government: Two women have been included in Felipe Gonzalez's Government after the July reshuffle. They are Rosa Conde, 41, Government Spokeswoman, and Matilde Fernández, 38, Social Affairs Minister.

Socialist Party: Women make up 26.08% of the Federal Executive Committee of the Spanish Socialist Party elected at the 31st Party Congress in June. However, female representation in the rest of the party's governing bodies averages about 20% - considerable progress, but short of the 25% quota set by the Party (PSOE, Ferraz 70, E-28008 Madrid).

Iberian women: It has been confirmed that the second meeting of Iberian women will take place in Madrid on October 14-16. The meeting will give Spanish and Portuguese women a chance to discuss the problem of "Women and Power". Women of Europe reminds its readers that the first meeting of Iberian women was held in Lisbon in 1987 following contacts established

between Portuguese and Spanish women during the "Welcome" trips organized by the European Commission at the time of Spain and Portugal's entry into the European Communities.

Banking: Rosario Magencio, 36, is the first woman to head the treasury department of a large bank (BANESTO).

Abortions: According to a clinical study carried out in Valencia, the use of the pill RU-486 to trigger abortions has been successful in 76.4% of the 85 women who have used it to date. The study, which is a prerequisite for a market authorization, also considers the psychological aspects of the drug's use. It found that in many women this method produced stronger guilt feelings than abortion by surgical techniques. On another front, a court has dismissed the case of the association *Acción Familiar* against a Health Ministry decree authorizing abortions in private clinics.

Paternity: Following a Supreme Court ruling in November 1987, family court judges must accept the requests for recognition of paternity made by mothers whose children have not been recognized if the biological evidence is reliable. The recognition of paternity leads to a change in the child's surname (the child then takes its father's name) and entitles the mother to ask the father for child support.

Equality: The *Forum de Política Feminista* (c/o Barquillo, 22 Madrid) has held a meeting with representatives of Spain's political parties, trade unions and the Feminist Movement to review the implementation of the Community Action Plan for Equal Opportunities for Women and the quotas set for women in order to enable them to participate in politics.

Media: The Spanish National Women's Council (*Consejo Nacional de Mujeres de España*, Maria Luisa Oliveda, c/o Diputació 306, E-08009 Barcelona, Tel.: 317 96 88) held a seminar this summer on women in the mass media.

Guardia Real: Some 140 wives of members of the Royal Guard demonstrated in the street in May, calling for wage rises and making other claims on behalf of their husbands. They asked for an audience with Queen Sofia.

Culture: The Women's Rights Information Centre "Alevin" (c/o Garcia Barbón 30 - Of.8, E-36201 Vigo, Tel.: 43 94 59) held a debate earlier this year on "Women and Literature in Galicia". Susana Solana, a Barcelona sculptress, won the National Prize for Plastic Arts (5 million pesetas) awarded by the Ministry of Culture.

Research: The Centre for Investigations into the History of Women of the University of Barcelona (Centre d'Investigació Històrica de la Dona, Universitat de Barcelona, Brusi 61, E-08006 Barcelona, Tel.: 200 43 89), which was founded in 1982, is calling for contributions in the form of written documents, oral testimony and photographs for its research project "Return to the sources of the historical role of women".

T H E U N I T E D K I N G D O M

Equality: The Equal Opportunities Commission and UK Press and Information Bureau of the European Commission organized jointly a conference on equal opportunity at Llandrindod Wells, Wales, in May, that was attended by various Welsh public officials and representatives of universities, women's organizations and trade unions. Chris Docksey (Service for Action in Favour of Employment and Equality for Women) gave a run-down of the stages of current issues being handled by Community institutions, Gillian Powell and Alice Leonard spoke about the EOC's work and the importance of European Community law, while Carol Tongue, British Labour MEP, explained what the European Parliament, especially women MEPs, could do to help emancipate women (and exhorted women's organizations to inform the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights of their priorities). Discussion Group 1 (led by Morag Alexander of the London EC office) examined the challenge of 1992 and equality and made a point of protesting strongly against the disappearance of the special guideline for women in the proposed new ESF guidelines; Discussion Group 2 (led by Carole Tongue) child care and parental leave; and Discussion Group 3 (led by Chris Docksey) Community law.

Hiring practices: The Equal Opportunities Commission (Overseas House, Quay Street, Manchester M3 3HN) has published guidelines called Avoiding Sex Bias in Selection Testing - Guidance for Employers to help employers avoid the pitfalls of badly-constructed, poorly-administered or wrongly-interpreted selection tests, which can limit the job and career opportunities of both men and women.

Sexual discrimination:

- * The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) has called on the Government to remove the barriers keeping qualified women out of traditionally male-dominated industries such as mining. This call is contained in its response to the Government's Consultative Document on Removal of Sex Discrimination in Legislation. The EOC recommends that the Government take the opportunity offered by the ongoing consultation process to remove all unjustified sex discrimination from national laws.
- * Maria Brow, 35, mother of four, won a major legal victory when the House of Lords ruled that she had been unfairly selected for redundancy by her employers because she was pregnant. The Law Lords contended that the inconvenience of keeping a woman's job open for her while she was on maternity leave was the price to be paid as part of the social and legal recognition of the equal status of women at work.
- * Another victory for women: Julie Anne Hayward, a canteen cook from the Cammell Laird shipyard in Birkenhead, England, has won a four-year battle for equal pay. A ruling by five Law Lords upheld her claim for equal pay for work of equal value (her male colleagues earned up to 25 pounds a week more than she did), regardless of her more favourable package of fringe benefits.

Abduction on the job: Suzy Lamplugh, 25, real estate agent, disappeared in broad daylight in July 1986 while showing a client round a house. There has been no trace of her since. The Suzy Lamplugh Trust (14 East Sheen Avenue, London SW 14 8AS) has been set up to carry out research on the best ways of protecting people at work without encroaching on their liberty and equal rights.

Health: The British Post Office is to offer cancer screening to all of its 35,000 women employees as part of a campaign to promote the health of Post Office staff. The 1 million-pound scheme will be kicked off this summer.

Nurses: A May 1988 report based on interviews with 7,600 nurses working in the National Health Service proposes that managers should offer more flexible working arrangements to persuade nurses to return to work after having a family (which most of them fail to do because of the difficulty of fitting in rigid hospital regimes with child care).

Rape:

- * The Association of Metropolitan Authorities has backed calls from Greater Manchester Police Authority for Government action to cut down on rape. The lines of action include removing pornography from mass circulation newspapers and magazines, cinema, television and videos, reviewing police procedures and facilities for handling rape cases, appointing more women judges and providing special training for all judges sitting to hear rape cases.
- * The National Federation of Women's Institutes (39 Eccleston Street, Victoria, London SW1W 9NT, Tel.: 370 72 12) adopted at its June Annual General Meeting a resolution calling for harsher rape sentencing.
- * Finally, the theme of violence against women was taken up at an international conference on "the response of the European and Local and Regional Authorities to the challenges of present-day society" held in Antwerp, Belgium, at which Josie Farrington, Leader of the Association of County Councils Labour Group, called on the Council of Europe to produce well-documented projects on how to combat violence against women.

Feminist books: Jo Campling, winner of the 1987 Women in Publishing "Pandora" Award for the most positive contribution to the image of women in publishing, is series editor of the new feminist list published by Macmillan Education, Women in Society (Vanessa Graham, Macmillan Education, Basingstoke, Hants, RG 21 2XS).

Meetings: "Granta" (8a Chestnut Avenue, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP 11 1DJ) is sponsoring a series of informal meetings (Women Welcome Women) where women from several countries join together in conversation: Iceland Aug. 29-Sep. 4, France in October, England in April '89, Germany in May '89, the United States in June/July '89 and Belgium in October '89.

Northern Ireland:

- * "The Northern Ireland Labour market remains rigidly segregated on the basis of sex," says Mary Clark-Glass, Chairman and Chief Executive of the Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland, in introducing a new report (No. 4) in the NI EOC's Womanpower series. She goes on to say that it is marked by unequal pay (in 1987, women's average weekly earnings were 73.5% those of men's) and considerable unemployment without benefits (38% of the women who regard themselves as unemployed are not claiming unemployment benefits).
- * The Joint Committee on Women's Rights has called for the drafting of a new law against sexual discrimination that would contain the provision of the 1974 Equal Pay Act and the 1977 Employment Equality Act. The Committee feels that this new law should go as far as possible to eliminate existing discrimination, whether direct or indirect.

- * In a concrete example of discrimination in Northern Ireland, Sharon Douglas, of Ballymena, was awarded 2,290 pounds by an Industrial Tribunal in damages in her suit against Terley Limited (textiles). The court found that she had indeed been sacked because of her marital status, and that this was a case of discrimination against the company's married versus unmarried women employees.

Useful address: Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland, 22
Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 2BA

NEWS IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD

Iceland: Vigdis Finnbogadóttir, 58, has been elected to a third term as President of the Icelandic Republic by an overwhelming majority (92.7%) of the votes. Her opponent was also a woman.

Trade unions: Trade unions understand that the increase in the number of women in the work force means that trade unions' futures depend on recruiting women members. So says Free Labour World, a bimonthly published by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (37 rue Montagne-aux-Herbes-Potagères, B-1000 Brussels, Tel.: 217 80 85), which points to the successful drives for female union membership. Such examples can be found in Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States, India, Ecuador and Fiji. In Sweden, women made up 91% of new union members between 1977 and 1987. In Germany, the DGB has reported that 80% of its new members in 1985 were women. However, even in trade unions in which women make up 1/3 of the membership, they hold an average of no more than 3-8% of the executive board seats.

WIN NEWS (Women's International Network, 187 Grant Street, Lexington MA 02173, USA, Tel.: 862 94 31) has announced the publication of a universal picture book of birth and a third revised edition of Frank Hosen's book on the sexual mutilation of women. The Women's International Network is an organization working for women's development and health worldwide.

Church doctrine: 1,380 American bishops have just published a 164-page pastoral letter titled "Partners of the Mystery of Redemption" in which they urge the Church to correct the sexism of which it has been guilty in the past (in 1978 an ad hoc committee was set up to study women's situations in the church the world over).

Rape: The first 1988 issue of the semi-annual Family Planning in Europe/Planning familial en Europe (International Planned Parenthood Federation Europe Region, Regent's College, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NS) focuses on rape, with articles on the improved situation in Denmark, rape and incest in Luxembourg and the French feminist collective against rape.

Procreation: The association of University Women of Europe has published a report on its second colloquium on the influence of new technologies on human reproduction, held in Canterbury at the end of 1987 (Mrs. Merry, Cloverdale, Canterbury Road, Wingham, Canterbury, Kent CT3 1NL).

Women's Socialist International: At their May meeting in Madrid, the women members of the Socialist International (Maritime House, Old Towan, Clapham, London SW4 0JW, Tel.: 627 44 49) adopted resolutions on disarmament, development, southern Africa and Latin America. In addition, they heard a comprehensive report from their Secretary-General on her recent visit to India (where she had opportunities to meet with leaders of various women's organizations).

Christian Peace Movement: The *Mouvement chrétien pour la Paix* (92 rue Stévin, B-1040 Brussels) sponsored a seminar at Sieverhausen, West Germany on "Women's Power, Men's Power", on the situation of women in times of economic crisis, earlier this year with European Commission support. The seminar proceedings are now available.

Women bosses: The association of women bosses, FCEM (Secretariat: Corso Europa 14, I-20122 Milano), held its 36th World Congress in June with the theme "Energy serving global economic development". The participants included President-elect Randi, outgoing President Dutry, European Commission Vice-President Narjes and Italian Council Vice-President De Michelis.

United Nations: At its 42nd session, the UN General Assembly adopted - after ample discussion of the situation of women - seven resolutions on women's emancipation. The most comprehensive one is Resolution 42/46, containing 20 "operational" paragraphs on various aspects of implementing the strategy adopted in Nairobi (Branch for the Advancement of Women, Vienna International Centre, P.E. Box 500, A-1400 Wien).

Switzerland: An Equal Rights Bureau has been set up at the Justice and Police Department of the Canton of Geneva (*Bureau de l'égalité des droits entre hommes et femmes*, rue Henri-Fazy 2, CP 362, CH-1211 Genève 3, Tel.: 27 20 65). The Bureau sent out a flyer on women's information in Geneva to all households in the canton for International Women's Day (March 8).

Africa: Velho Rodriguez, Mozambique's Ambassador to the European Communities, told Marie-Hélène Birindelli, editor-in-chief of *Le Courrier/The Courier* (10-12 rue Guimard, B-1040 Brussels), that while women were entering certain areas "at a very quick pace" in the newly-independent African countries, Europe seemed much more conservative regarding, for example, diplomatic careers. She also felt that Mozambican women bore "very great responsibility for shaping the personalities of tomorrow's Mozambican men".

LATIN AMERICA

Peru: The Peruvian feminist movement publishes articles on women's roles in politics and in dealing with the foreign debt, among other things, in the magazine *Viva* (Parque Hernán Velaide 42, Lima 1).

Uruguay: The Women's Institute (*Instituto de la Mujer*, Reconquista 535 Piso 80, Montevideo), headed by Diosma Piotti de Fortuna, sent out a flyer for March 8 explaining its goals. The flyer also pointed out that women made up 51.3% of the population and 33% of the working population (1985 figures), but that 6 out of 10 unemployed in Montevideo were women.

Puerto Rico: The *Colegio Universitario de Cayey* (Puerto Rico 00622) has opened a Documentation Centre, which organized a day against violence against women and has already published its first bulletin, *Por Fuera*. The University College has also offered experimental programmes for women for the past two years.

Chile: *Mujer/Fempress* (Box 16, 637 Santiago 9) has information for all working women. Here is a list of women's organizations currently active in Chile:

Casa del Memch '83
Catedral 1877
Santiago, Chile

Movimiento de Mujeres
Pobladoras "Momupo"
Independencia 345 casa 2
Santiago, Chile

Agrupación de Mujeres Democráticas Frente de Liberación Feminina
Jose Miguel Infante 3295J Bellavista 0547
Santiago, Chile Santiago, Chile

Mudechi
Catedral 1877
Santiago, Chile

Mujeres Cristianas por la Defensa de
la vida
Bilbao 1025
Temuco, Chile

Movimiento Feminista
Bellavista 0547
Santiago, Chile

Casa de la Mujer la Morada
Bellavista 0547
Santiago, Chile

Acción Femenina
Catedral 1885
Santiago, Chile

Centro de Estudios de la Mujer - CEM
Purísima 353
Santiago, Chile

ISIS International (Rome/Santiago) publishes testimonies of the "sometimes terrible, sometimes uplifting" experiences of peasant woman in Peru, Chile and Ecuador in its collection on Latin-American peasant women.

Venezuela: Issue No. 15 of the magazine *La Mala Vida* celebrates the anniversary of the magazine's creation with a series of articles on "inspired women", "mothers at all cost" and "nervous habits".

Nicaragua: The *Centro de Información sobre la Mujer "Nora Astora"* (Apto. 1-238, Managua) announces the creation of the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women (Asociación de las Mujeres Nicaraguense "Luisa Amanda Espinoza") to mobilise women to do more to abolish the discrimination of which they are the victims.

BOOKS, STUDIES, MEETINGS

Belgium: The group *Changeons les livres* (Let's change the books) (29, rue Blanche, B-1050 Brussels, Tel.: 538 67 61) has come out with its second book. In *Visages de la littérature féminine* (Editions Mardaga), Evelyne Wilwerth, graduate in Romance philology and writer, discovers and rediscovers women writers from the 12th century to 1956.

Iberoamerica - Mujer: As part of the programme to raise public awareness to the situation of Latin American women cofinanced by the European Commission, CIPIE (*Centro de Investigaciones y Promoción Iberoamerica-Europa*, Múñez Morgado 9, E-23036 Madrid) has published a brochure on this subject that highlights the part played by women in Latin America and stresses the coinciding dates of the dismantling of EC internal borders and the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America.

Ireland: The UCD Women's Studies Forum (Mary Flynn, Main Library, UCD Belfield, Dublin 4, or Ailbhe Smyth, Dept. of French, UCD Belfield, Dublin 4, Tel.: 69 32 44) will be holding a two-week seminar on "body politics" (stress, motherhood, sexuality, self-defense, etc.) that starts on October 22.

Italy: *La Famiglia Moltiplicata*, by Carmine Ventimiglia (published by Franco Angeli, Viale Monza 106, I-20127 Milano) examines the possibilities and limits of artificial fertilization, raising the question of just how far the State can interfere with the freedom of choice of its citizens in this area.

Germany:

* The Federal Ministry for Youth, the Family, Women and Health (Bundesministerium für Jugend, Familie, Frauen und Gesundheit, Postfach, D-5300 Bonn 2) has published a report on improved housing for mistreated women and children.

* Ilse Ridder-Melchers, Parliamentary Secretary of State for equality between men and women of Rhineland-Northern Westphalia (*Die Parlamentarische Staatssekretärin für die Gleichstellung von Frau und Mann*, Haroldstrasse 4, D-4000 Düsseldorf, Tel.: 83701), has published a brochure on women working at home on computers. This brochure, titled "*Teleheimarbeit von Frauen*", describes the special problems encountered by such women, whose employers demand constant availability (although the work is very irregular, with slow periods) and who get less help from their husbands than other working wives, since they are at home.

The cover story of *EG Magazin*, a European Commission German-language publication, is on "Women in Europe", with contributions from the different capitals.

Spain: The first *Una palabra otra* prize has been awarded to Carmen Gomez Ojea for *La novela que Marien no terminó* (Edicions de les dones, llibreria, Valencia 226, E-08007 Barcelona, Tel.: 323 17 98). The same publishing house has come out with *Sobre mujer y salud mental* by Carmen Sáez Buenaventura (in the *Cuadernos inacabados* ("unfinished notebooks") series)), which examines the role of women in psychiatry, depression in housewives and the "premenstrual syndrome". The Women's Institute (*Instituto de la Mujer*, Almagro 36, E-23010 Madrid) has published a study called *De puertas adentro*, under the direction of Mariá Angeles Durán, that explores the social structures in which women move in both public and private life.

France: Suzanne Blaise (15, rue Poliveau, F-75005 Paris), sends out a call for a maximum of support from other women for her research for a study called *Le Rapt des Origines ou le Meurtre de la Mère* (The abduction of our origins or murdering the mother).

United Kingdom: Gabrielle Varro, researcher at the *Centre national de la Recherche scientifique* in Paris, has published The Transplanted Woman, a study of married American expatriate women in France (Eurospan Group of Publishers, 4 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 8LU).

Nancy Walker, in a article called "What we know about women voters in Britain, France and West Germany" in the May/June issue of Public Opinion, examines the voting patterns of women in these countries, based in part on the European Commission's Eurobarometer surveys. On the whole, Nancy Walker finds that women in these countries have gradually moved away from the traditional conservative positions and now vote for the Left or Right more or less as men do. Charlotte Huggett has published Participation in Practice, A case study of the introduction of new technology (Engineering Industry Training Board, P.O. Box 75, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 1PH), the personal testimony of a secretary on the introduction of new technologies in office work. Her overall assessment is positive, despite the fact, as she reveals, that executive secretaries must wage a constant battle to make their opinions in such matters known.

The International Women's Tribune Centre (777 United Nations Plaza, NY, NY 10017 USA, Tel.: (212) 687 86 33) has just published It's Our Move Now, a handbook on the courses of action to be taken in all areas in order to implement the strategies for the advancement of women adopted in Nairobi, and Derechos de la Mujer, about the international conventions affecting women and their rights.

10 Years of Women of Europe: is the title of Supplement 27 to Women of Europe, written by Janine Mossuz-Lavau, Director of Research at the CNRS and France's National Political Science Foundation - Centre for the Study of French Political Life, who introduces the supplement as follows:

"...a study of the 52 issues and 25 supplements published to date gives a faithful rendering of the trials and tribulations of European women, who, while making up more than 50% of the population in all of the Member States, were still dependent at the start of this ten-year period, still in a position of inequality when compared with men, gradually won new rights, adopted new types of behaviour, and took their destiny into their own hands much more than before to try to obtain equal rights and more freedom than had been given to previous generations, expressing by their initiatives the ability to implement the fundamental principle of brotherhood and asking, in the name of brotherhood, that men show more solidarity with women."